

National Weather Service Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



Time Path Path Number of Estimated February 2006
Local/ Length Width Persons Damage
Location Date Standard (Miles) (Yards) Killed Injured Property Crops Character of Storm

WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ046>047-051>052-056>060-062>069 Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock

The only widespread winter storm to affect south-central and southeast Wisconsin, during the 2005-06 winter months of Dec-Jan-Feb, deposited heavy snowfalls of 6 to 14 inches and generated northeast to north winds of 15 to 20 knots with gusts to 35 to 39 knots (40 to 45 mph). The accumulating snow fell in two rounds - during the evening hours of February 15th and in the morning and afternoon hours of February 16th. Convective bands on the 16th (with thunder) were responsible for a narrow band of heavy snow (accumulations around 12 inches) from Argyle (Lafayette Co.) northeast through the Cottage Grove area of eastern Dane County to the city of Sheboygan (Sheboygan Co.). Hundreds of vehicle accidents were reported via news channels, many schools were closed, and many airplane flights were delayed or cancelled. Some specific snowfall totals include 14 inches in Sheboygan and Saukville (Ozaukee Co.), 13.5 inches in Cottage Grove, 13.0 inches in West Bend (Washington Co.), Middleton (Dane Co.), and Arygle, an estimated 12 to 13 inches in northwestern Green Co., 11.4 inches in Lake Mills (Jefferson Co.), 11.3 inches just northeast of Ripon (Fond du Lac Co.), an estimated 10 to 11 inches in northeastern Green Lake County, 10.7 inches in Reedsburg (Sauk Co.), 10.0 inches in Evansville (Rock Co.), an estimated 9 inches in northeastern Marquette County, 8.9 inches in Lodi (Columbia Co.), an estimated 8 inches in far northwestern Milwaukee County, 7.8 inches in Oconomowoc (Waukesha Co.), and 7 to 8 inches in southern Iowa County. Convective clouds on the 16th deposited 1 to 2 inches of sleet (mixed with some new snow) in a narrow band from Clinton (Rock Co.) northeast to the Palmyra area (Jefferson Co.) to New Berlin (Waukesha Co.) to Shorewood (Milwaukee Co.). This was on top of about 3 inches of snow that fell in the first round of snow that occurred during the evening hours of the 15th. A total of only 0.5 to 3 inches of snow fell along and southeast of a line from Delavan in Walworth County to downtown Milwaukee (Milwaukee Co.), where rain mixed in with the snow. During the height of the storm on the 16th, visibilities were briefly reduced to 1/4 mile where thundersnow was reported. Hourly snowfall rates with some of the thundersnow reached 2 to 4 inches per hour locally. The responsible low pressure moved northeast through extreme northern Indiana.

WIZ046>047-051>052-056>060-062>072 Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha

17 1800CST 0 0 Cold/Wind Chill

Very cold wind chil values affected all of south-central and southeast Wisconsin during the evening hours of February 17th through the morning hours of February 18th, in the wake of the winter storm on February 15-6th. After daytime maximum readings mostly in the teens over south-central Wisconsin to the mid 20s over the southeast corner on the 17th, temperatures dropped overnight. Lowest readings during the early morning hours on the 18th ranged from -22F about 7 miles northwest of Poynette (Columbia Co.) to -10F at Racine (Racine Co.). Brisk west to northwest winds gusted to 15 to 20 knots (17 to 23 mph). Wind chills dropped to -20 to -34, however for only about 1 hour, they dropped to -35 to -38 in scattered spots (-38 at Sheboygan in Sheboygan County). Several outdoor activities and other social functions were cancelled.

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18 1800CST 0 0 Cold/Wind Chill 19 0900CST

This period of low wind chill valuels was the second of two rounds of low wind chill values on the heels of a widespread, winter storm which dumped 6 to 14 inches of snow across most of south-central and southeast Wisconsin on February 15-16, 2006. Wind chills dropped to -20 to -30 during the overnight hours, thanks to temperatures that dropped into the single digits below zero and west to northwest winds of 10 to 15 knots (11 to 17 mph). Maximum daytime temperatures on the 18th ranged from -1F at both



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Jackson and the NWS Forecast Office near Sullivan (Jefferson Co.) to 10 above at Portage (Columbia Co.), which proved to be the coldest day of the 2005-06 winter season. Overnight lows into the early morning hours of the 19th ranged from -22 F at Argyle (Lafayette Co.) to -9 at Milwaukee's Mitchell Field (Milwaukee Co.). A number of evening activities were cancelled due to the low wind chill values.